

## Protocol for St. Anna Visitation

When greeting St. Anna (or any other miraculous icon) the hosting priest should prepare to greet the icon in the following manner:

- The priest exits from the open royal doors, vested in phelonian, cuffs and stole. A censer is in the priest's hands as the icon approaches the Church.
- If possible, bells should be rung in a festive manner until the icon enters into the center of the Church.
- Weather permitting, the priest greets the icon in front of the Church or in the back of the Church in the narthex. Priest censens the icon nine times, removes hat, venerates icon and censens the icon as She enters the Church while choir sings troparion to St. Anna (see below.)
- At the ambon, the priest steps aside and the visiting monastery clergy goes with the icon through the royal doors, making the sign of the Cross over the front of the Altar then proceeds around the Altar (as in an entrance) and blesses the people from the front of the Altar. (if needed, the hosting priest can take the icon)
- After the icon comes from the Altar it is placed on a stand in the middle of the Church and censens three times on all four sides.
- The appropriate service can now commence with the usual beginning.

Please note, the visitation of the Icon of St. Anna is a blessing to the parish and helps to Monastery to pay its operating costs. Please be advised to plan on taking a collection or to give an agreed upon stipend to be paid to the visiting monastery clergy before they leave (please have the stipend or donation ready as it is best not to mail the donation.)

We appreciate your invitation to host St. Anna and we hope that you and your parish are blessed with the Grace of St. Anna and of the Monastery of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk.

### ***Troparion to the Dormition of St. Anna (used also as a Theotokion during daily services), in Tone IV—***

O divinely wise Anna,  
in thy womb thou didst bear the pure Mother of God,  
who gaveth birth unto Life.  
Wherefore, rejoicing in glory,  
thou hast now been translated to the mansions of heaven,  
where is the abode of those who rejoice. O ever-blessed one, \*\*\*  
beseech thou cleansing of transgressions for those who honor thee with love.

### ***Kontakion, in Tone II: Spec. Mel.—***

We celebrate the memory of the forebears of Christ,  
entreating them with faith for help,  
that from every tribulation all may be delivered who cry:  
Our God is with us, \*\*\*  
Who hath glorified them, as was His good pleasure.